

**SPECIAL INTEREST
ARTICLES:****Buffalo MEPS
Commander's Corner****The Roving
Reporter's Column
by Bette Chapman****New Arrivals:****Mr. Robert Kaminski
Medical Technician****Ms. Melissa John
Assistant Budget Tech****Leaving Us:****Mr. Thomas Dye
Commander's
Administrative Assistant****Simon Lissner's email**[SIMON.LISSNER@
ASAB.CENTAF.AF.MIL](mailto:SIMON.LISSNER@ASAB.CENTAF.AF.MIL)**His wife Nancy would
appreciate a card.
If interested, see Bette
in Testing for address.****WELLNESS NEWS**www.mepcom.army.mil/wrprog**TRICARE Help Card**

- ☐ All Tricare numbers in one handy document

Commander's Corner

I would like to welcome everyone back from the Holidays. Hopefully each of you had a chance to relax and gain the extra weight that is required during the period of late November and all of December. We must be blessed having all of the Southerners in our presence. The weather thus far has been fantastic and I have seen more sun in the last 30 days than all of last winter. But this is Buffalo so continue to monitor the weather and ensure that each of you is ready for any storms that may arise. Remember, that there is nothing here worth risking your life for. If you are not comfortable traveling, stay where you are and we will make due.

I would like to thank all of those who helped set up for the holiday party this year. What a great meal. The pink elephant gift exchange proved to be both interesting and informative. I never knew there were so many wine connoisseurs in the command. I hope Chief Jayasinghe enjoyed the home made salsa.

During the past two months MEPS Buffalo has received visits from Col. Yeary (USMEPCOM), Col. Atkins (Eastern Sector) and an IG visit, yet still continued to perform business as usual. I will tell you that having the opportunity to talk to each of these individuals off line, they are absolutely impressed with MEPS Buffalo. Even better news; with all of our inspections and official visits complete, we should be able to remain out of RADAR contact for awhile.

Special thanks and prayers go out to Simon Lissner who has been called up for the Air Force Reserves and has been deployed to Kuwait for approximately 120 or more days. Please remember to think of him and to send him a note when you get a chance.

Hails go out to Bob Kaminski down in medical who arrived early January. He has recently retired from the National Guard and is filling a much needed billet down in medical. We also hail Melissa John who came to us from Navy Recruiting. She also has filled the much needed billet back in budget as the budget assistant. We bid goodbye to Tom Dye who has moved on to greener pastures at the VA. I am not alone when I say that he will be sorely missed.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for a job well done this past quarter and hope that the road to spring continues to be sunny and unseasonably warm. Training day proved to be a very informative and I hope everyone enjoyed the change up in venue. I still can't believe that nobody in the Command knew who "the King" was when referring to NASCAR.

The Roving Reporter:

Hail & Farewell - November 18th - held at the Lackawanna Masonic Lodge Building. We welcomed 1SG Song & his daughter Courtney, SSG Buter, NCOIC of Testing & Ray Bennett, Supply Tech to our MEPS Family. The CDR presented TSgt McLachlan with Military Member of the Fiscal Year 2005. Kudos, TSgt McLachlan for a job well done. Next on the agenda was "Stretch" the clown who provided an array of balloon animals & swords for the children's entertainment. Chief's son Suriya was devastated when his buccaneer sword burst. Thanks to "Stretch" another sword was provided before Suriya could remove his eye patch (pirate talk for blinking an eye). After enjoying Buffalo's famous pizza & wings sponsored by the Cup & Flower Fund, we enjoyed Karaoke tunes spun by Peter the "Traveling DJ." Mardi Gras beads were given out to all children who sang. There was a drawing every song for a child's prize. Some of us who sang were good; some of us who sang thought we were good; but all of us had a great time enjoying the fun. Thanks to all who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend, even though the weather was threatening.

MEPS Holiday Party December 9th - held at Banchetti's Banquet Facility & Grove. We had a terrific turnout of 52 MEPS employees & their significant others plus liaisons. The food was delicious, the company was outstanding but the piece de' resistance was the gift exchange. There were terrific gifts such as wine, scratch-off tickets, specialty coffee w/designer mugs, and other ingenious gifts. The gift that got the most attention was the "chili pepper boxers" the Lt won. What a fashion statement!!! Sir, are you taking them on your honeymoon?

The Children's Christmas Party December 18th - held at Lackawanna Masonic Lodge. This event started with a magic show starring Rob Allen & his lovely assistant Carol. Rob has toured the U.S., Canada, Caribbean & South America and shared the stage with Woody Herman, Eddie Fisher, Tiny Tim, Doc Severson, and Roy Orbison. I heard from those who attended that Mr. Allen was outstanding. My granddaughter Kendyll was his assistant during one of his tricks. "Grandma," she said, "I was a star." Jolly Old Saint Nick and his elf appeared about 3:30 pm. He handed out gifts to the children. Santa took notes on favorite toys the children wanted to find under their tree Christmas morning. The party ended with ice cream, cookies and milk. What a GRAND day. Thanks go out to the Lt & his lodge buddies for inviting us to join with their families at the annual Lackawanna Lodge Children's Christmas Party.

**Pictures of all our events are provided on the Family Readiness Group bulletin board.
Stop by and check them out!!!!**